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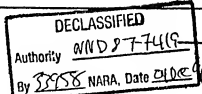
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Control: 3

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1953

DECEMBER 8, 1958

FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 457, DECEMBER 8, 4 PM

PRIORITY

SENT PRIORITY BONN 405 DEPARTMENT 457 REPEATED INFORMATION
POLAD USAREUR UNN; PARIS (ALSO FOR CINCEUR THURSTON
AND WEST) UNN; MOSCOW UNN; LONDON UNN.

BERLIN ELECTION RESULTS (1954 FIGURES IN PARENTHESIS): SPD
52.1 PERCENT (44.6); CDU 37.3 PERCENT (30.4); FDP 3.8 (12.8);
FDV 0.7; DP 3.3 (4.9); SED 1.9 (2.7). SUBJECT TO FINAL COUNT
SPD WILL HAVE 78 SEATS; CDU 55; OTHERS NOT REPRESENTED.

BIG SPD MARGIN CONSIDERED PERSONAL TRIUMPH FOR BRANDT (HE
CARRIED HIS OWN DISTRICT WITH 67.7 PERCENT). LU MANAGERS,
WHO NEVER BELIEVED PARTY COULD OVERTAKE SPD, FAIRLY WELL
SATISFIED WITH CDU GROWTH 1954; 91.8 PERCENT) SINCE LAST
ELECTIONS. RECORD VOTING PARTICIPATION OF 94 PERCENT EVIDENCE
OF INTEREST BERLIN POPULATION WHICH TURNED ELECTIONS INTO
PLEBISCITE ON SOVIET NOTE AND INFLECTED DEFEAT ON SED, ES-
PECIALLY IN COMMUNIST STRONGHOLD WEDDING WORKERS' DISTRICT.

AT MIDNIGHT PRESS CONFERENCE MAYOR BRANDT MADE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS:

1. SIGNIFICANCE ELECTION RESULT FAR TRANSCENDS BERLIN AREA
BECAUSE CLEAR REPLY KHRUSHCHEV AND STRENGTHENING OF INTER-
NATIONAL POSITION BERLIN. (ONE REMARK AROUND CITY WAS
THAT BERLIN HAD SHOWN IT DOES NOT WANT BECOME "FREE CITY"
BUT WANTS REMAIN FREE CITY). (2) THIS FIRST TIME IN GERMAN
POSTWAR HISTORY THAT ONLY TWO PARTIES REPRESENTED IN LAND
PARLIAMENT. BRANDT REGRETTED DISAPPEARANCE LIBERAL GROUPS, SAID

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-2- 457, DECEMBER 8, 4 PM FROM BERLIN

PERHAPS IT INEVITABLE SINCE LIBERAL ELEMENTS HAD FOUND HAVEN IN BOTH BIG PARTIES. (3) MAKING GUARDED REFERENCE TO CONTINUATION COALITION, BRANDT SAID UNDER EXISTING CONDITIONS BERLIN NEEDS COOPERATION ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND SPD WILL NOT ABUSE ITS VICTORY.

FINANCE SENATOR HERTZ COMMENTED PRIVATELY ELECTION RESULT WAS "DEFEAT FOR ADENAUER AND OLLENHAUER". MOST SPD LEADERS NATURALLY ELATED, BUT SOME FELT VICTORY WAS TOO GOOD; PREDICTING DIFFICULTY IN CONTROLLING WILD ELEMENTS WITHIN PARTY WHO NOW EAGER WAGE ALL-OUT FIGHT AGAINST CDU. HOWEVER, MAJORITY FEEL CDU MUST BE OFFERED OPPORTUNITY RE-ENTERING GOVERNMENT. SOME CDU POLITICIANS HAD MIXED FEELINGS, SAYING IT MIGHT BE MORE IMPORTANT FOR PARTY PURSUE POLICY CONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION RATHER THAN ACCEPT COALITION ARRANGEMENT HEAVILY FAVORING SPD. HOWEVER, LEMMER AND AMREHN SEEM FAVOR COALITION PROVIDED SPD TERMS NOT PUNITIVE.

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